

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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AGRICULTURE

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

XCVI.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Mr. Robert S. Taylor, in discussing what we said about the production of cotton reaching its limit, is very much mistaken if he thinks we were lamenting that condition. Simply gave it as matter of news and fact. There is no one who rejoices more at the advancement made by our eastern farmers than we, and no one will work harder to make our farmers get out of the old ruts.

TOBACCO GROWING AROUND WILMINGTON

We took a trip to Wilmington during the Elks' Carnival, and noticed a small pine-pole house made on the side of the street. A close examination revealed an amateur tobacco barn. It was in charge of Mr. James Dodd, a veteran tobacco warehouseman. There are a great many of our eastern farmers that know nothing about tobacco, and he is teaching them their first lessons. The Wilmington merchants have subscribed \$30,000 to erect warehouses, etc., so that the farmers can have a near-by market.

With a good port, there is no reason why Wilmington should not become one of the best markets in the State for tobacco. The farmers will be supplied with seed, and have practical tobacco men to give them full instructions. All the country near will be thoroughly canvassed, and where soil of the right kind can be found, the farmers will be asked to plant.

THE KIND OF LAND NEEDED

Mr. Dodd said to a farmer that any land fairly well drained that had a yellow clay subsoil from 8 to 18 inches below the surface, and the surface composed of light or gray sand, would make fine wrappers if properly managed. Bright and mahogany wrappers were worth from 20 to 80 cents per pound. He said there would be a plenty of good literature distributed so that almost any one with fair intelligence could raise the tobacco.

Tobacco farmers, listen to what he says about flues for barns:

"I see these pipes here; they are ordinary stovepipes, and you can use them in place of the large ones. It will not require so much fuel, and you can raise the temperature as high as you need it."

If this be true, it certainly will be cheaper, for we know that stovepipes do not sell very high. We mention the above for you to think about. An ordinary stove will heat a room hot enough to dry almost anything.

EVERYBODY HELPED BY THE FARMER'S SUCCESS.

We like to see merchants take an interest in farmers this way. It does good and will be helpful to all.

The railways out West used to throw out every inducement to get people to settle along their lines. They have made money for themselves and have helped thousands of others to get fortunes also. And Mr. Taylor mentioned the Wilmington & Weldon Railway making money by hauling truck; every one who is interested should lend a helping hand. When the farmer fails, the whole country is seriously affected.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

This is Truth.

The recent high prices of meats of all kinds has given a great deal of agitation among farmers of the South to the cattle raising industry. Very little attention has been paid to cattle raising in Cabarrus, in fact, we believe not half enough meat is marketed in Concord to supply the demand, and we wonder why this is as it is. To give our readers an idea of how much meat is consumed in Concord, we approached Mr. J. F. Dayvault, whose market is headquarters, and he tells us that his average for one month is one hundred cattle, whose average weight is 600 pounds, thirty sheep, thirty calves and 125 hogs. This is the report of only one market, and we have several others here who do a large business. If our farmers would enter the cattle raising business along with their regular farm work they would be surprised to find out the profit there is in it.—Concord Times.

The ranker growing legumes, such as the cow pea and soy bean not only add nitrogen to the soil if plowed under or returned to it in the form of manure, but their lower roots penetrate the subsoils to a great depth and draw up considerable amounts of potash and some phosphorus which then becomes a constituent of the top soil and available for surface feeding plants.

Curing Peavine Hay.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The season for curing peavine hay has just closed, and it has been an unusually wet one in our county. As I have successfully housed and stacked about forty tons, will give you my plan for curing. Although I have read a great many letters on the subject in agricultural papers, I don't recall any plan but that involves a good deal of expense in the form of stakes or pens made of rails or poles.

I handle pea hay like clover, only it requires more time to cure. After mowing, I allow from one to three days sun before raking into windrows, and pile at one in well-shaped, compact cocks about six feet high. After a week or ten days it will be ready to haul to the barn. Open out the piles for a few hours' sun before hauling. I want to rake as soon as they are dry enough to rake well, and pile while they are heavy enough to make a compact pile; so if it rains they will turn the water. By curving in the pile the leaves do not fall off so much, and the quality of hay is superior. Although I had rain on every cutting this fall, my hay is all good. Have sold five tons from the field on our city market at from 60 to 65 cents per hundred pounds.

Our county raises a great deal of pea hay for market, and the plan outlined above is generally followed by our farmers.

JOHN M'DOWELL.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Successful Agricultural Co-operation.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The reports of the formation of an agricultural trust in the Northwest, whereby the farmers are to control prices, calls attention to some schemes of farm co-operation which have been proven successes.

In old Ireland are found well-established instances of farm co-operation which is causing a bright outlook from the surrounding gloom of Irish farming and back-breaking rentals. Ireland is an ideal dairy country. In 1898 she had 131 co-operative creamery and agricultural societies with a membership of nearly ten thousand of the better class of Irish farmers. By running the creameries themselves they have increased the profits from their cows from ten up to thirty-five per cent. The co-operative societies buy and sell collectively the supplies and products of the farmers, getting all seeds and

fertilizers, etc., in bulk. In this they effect an immense saving and can be sure of receiving first-class goods.

But little has been attempted along agricultural co-operative lines in the United States outside of the dairy industry. The co-operative dairy, however, is a well-known institution. An article in the New York Times states that \$30,000,000 of business is done annually in the co-operative creameries in this country. In Minnesota 450 out of 650 creameries are co-operative; in Wisconsin 1,000 out of 7,000, and in Iowa more than one-third are co-operative.

In Denmark, noted for its fine butter, four-fifths of the milk produced, three-fifths of the hogs and one-sixth of the eggs are handled by co-operative societies. There are also in the little kingdom 837 co-operative stores. France has 2,500 co-operative societies with 800,000 members. Germany has 13,000 co-operative societies, largely agricultural. In almost every European country co-operative industry has in recent years made vast strides, but the beginnings have always been small and experience which has brought success has been always after many failures. Whether such an undertaking as is announced in the press among the northwestern farmers can be successfully carried out, in view of the small experience available for this class of organization, remains to be seen.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Washington, D. C.

The Department of Agriculture is in continued receipt of communications from abroad contradicting Dr. Koch's theory that bovine tuberculosis is not communicable to man and vice versa. German experiments show that tests were made with goats, mules, cattle and rabbits, infecting them with tubercle bacilli of human origin. These tests showed that the disease is communicable from man to animal, but that the virulence of the bacilli may vary in different animals, just as any disease may make marked variations in its ravages.

The preliminary estimate of the average yield of corn per acre, as published in the monthly report of the statistician of the Department of Agriculture is 28.6 as compared with an average yield of 16.7 bushels in 1901, 25.3 bushels in 1900, and 1899, and a ten-year average of 23.4 bushels.